Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04226 291449Z

64
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-05 /096 W
---------- 047899
R 29134Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5027
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4226

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, UR
SUBJECT: SYRIAN EFFORTS TO RELIEVE LEBANESE CRISIS

1. SYRIAN EFFORTS TO RELIEVE LEBANESE CRISIS HAVE
FOCUSED ON DIPLOMACY CONDUCTED BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF
SARG TO STIMULATE RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL ISSUES AND
A NUMBER OF HELPFUL MEASURES TO REDUCE DIFFICULTIES OF

LEBANESE REFUGEES FLEEING TO SYRIA. EXAMPLES OF LATTER
INCLUDE TEMPORARY WAIVER OF CUSTOMS PAPERWORK AT BORDER
TO EXPEDITE PASSAGE OF TRAFFIC, REOPENING OF SUMMER HOTELS
IN BLUDAN AND ZEBADANI TO ACCOMMODATE OVERFLOW FROM
DAMASCUS HOTELS, AND PROVISION OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES
BY SYRIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH INCLUDING PLASMA URGENTLY
REQUESTED BY LEBANESE HEALTH AUTHORITIES. WHILE WE
POSSESS NO FIRM FIGURES ON REFUGEE POPULATION HERE,
WE HAVE HEARD ESTIMATES RANGING FROM LOW OF
15,000 TO HIGH OF 200,000 (LATTER REPORTED IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 04226 291449Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

OCT. 27 TISHRIIN). SWELLING PRESENCE OF
LEBANESE HAS RESULTED IN BUTAGAS SHORTAGE IN
DAMASCUS AS WELL AS LONGER BREAD LINES AT LOCAL
BAKERIES. ACCORDING PRESS, LEBANESE STUDENTS
ARE BEING ADMITTED TO SYRIAN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
SCHOOLS WITHOUT SCHOOL RECORDS AND LEBANESE TAXIS
OWNED BY SYRIANS ARE BEING ISSUED THREE-MONTH
PERMITS TO OPERATE IN SYRIA.

2. LOCAL SOURCE INFORMS US THAT SERMONS
DELIVERED DURING OCT. 24 MOSQUE SERVICES CRITICIZED
FRANGIE FOR STANDING BY WHILE SLAUGHTER OF
LEBANESE PEOPLE CONTINUED.

3. YUGOSLAV EMBASSY SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF OCT. 28
THAT HE "ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN" ASAD DISCUSSED
LEBANESE CRISIS WITH HIS SOVIET HOSTS DURING RECENT
MOSCOW VISIT. ACCORDING TO YUGOSLAV, SOVIETS
PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN EFFORTS TO REDUCE TENSIONS
AND HELP BRING ABOUT RETURN OF STABILITY IN LEBANON.
SOVIETS, SOURCE ASSERTED, CLAIMED THEY SHARED SAME
GOALS AS SARG IN LEBANON AND WOULD SUPPORT ASAD'S
ENDEAVORS.

4. SYRIAN PRESS PLAY ON LEBANESE CRISIS HAS BEEN LOW-KEY
EMPHASIZING POSITIVE SYRIAN ASSISTANCE EFFORTS. INFORMATION
CONTAINED PARA ONE ABOVE, AS WELL AS DISPATCH OF
SYRIAN FIREMENT TO LEBANON MENTIONED IN OCT. 27
TISHRIIN, HAS ACCOMPANIED REPORTS STRESSING KARAME'S
APPEAL TO ALL PARTIES TO HALT BLOODSHED AND RESTORE
INTEGRITY OF POLITICAL SYSTEM.

5. COMMENT: GENERAL PROGNOSIS HERE IS THAT FLOW
OF LEBANESE INTO SYRIA IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE, PUTTING
INCREASING PRESSURE ON LIMITED HOTEL AND SCHOOL
FACILITIES AS WELL AS FOOD SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC
SERVICES, PARTICULARLY IN DAMASCUS.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL STABILITY, REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC04226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750375-0394
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751098/aaaagtph.tel
Line Count: 103
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971014
Subject: SYRIAN EFFORTS TO RELIEVE LEBANESE CRISIS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SREF, LE, SY, UR
To: STATE INFO AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006